Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Eagle Grove Head Start

Provider No.: 50856

Address: 121 N Iowa Ave, Eagle Grove, IA, 50533

County: Wright

Director's Name: Michelle Carden

On-Site Supervisor: Gavin Wilson

Phone Number: 5156036116

E-Mail: mcarden@yourhs-ehs.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/23/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/15/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:15 AM to 2:45 PM	
Tuesday		8:15 AM to 2:45 PM	
Wednesday		8:15 AM to 2:45 PM	
Thursday		8:15 AM to 2:45 PM	
Friday		8:15 AM to 2:45 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			22		22
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Eagle Grove Head Start program on 09-23-26. I met with Lead Teacher Beth Lukes who took over the lead teacher position at the start of the 2026 school year. The center is one of several locations overseen by Your Own United Resources Head Start program with Michelle Carden as the executive director. Michelle and Beth are both well qualified for the the positions based on their experience, formal education, and on-going professional development. The program is located in a free standing building in Eagle Grove. The center provides preschool programming only serving children 3-4 years of age. There are currently 10 children enrolled in the program served by 2 teachers and a cook. All aspects of the program subject to DHS Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the building and classroom remains the same as in prior visits. The building has a large open classroom space for the main programming area, a kitchen, storage, and office space. There were no issues noted with regard to construction or maintenance. In addition to the main entry there is a secondary exit providing direct access to the playground that serves as an emergency exit. All exits were maintained to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Restrooms are located directly accessible from the classroom, and also serve as emergency tornado shelter. Sinks are located in the restrooms and also directly accessible from the classroom programming space. Mixer units have been installed to prevent scalding on the sinks in the classroom space which are the ones primarily used by the children. Windows along the exterior walls provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The classroom is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures which were arranged so as to not create any blind areas and provide the children with ample room to move and play. The toys and materials were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Programming & Interaction:
The center uses a formal curriculum that identifies a general learning focus theme as well as specific learning concepts of numbers and letters. During the teachers followed the planned curriculum and schedule in both teacher lead group activities and child directed play. The teachers also took every opportunity to create a learning atmosphere such as during lunch with asking questions and talking about the food they were eating, where it comes from, and how it is produced.
All teachers were observed to be actively engaged with the children. When speaking to the children the teachers used calm and positive tones.
Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers recognizing positive behaviors, reviewing expectations, and helping the children with guided problem solving. There were children who were not participating in the planned curriculum activities and rather than engaging in a power struggle to make children comply the teachers used encouragement, and rotated engagement which was effective.
Ratio was maintained as required and the center cook also joined the class to help provide support when possible.

Health & Safety:
Good health and safety practices were observed with the teacher ensuring that the children washed their hands and did so in an effective manner following restroom use, before meals, and other times that they became soiled.
Tables were sanitized both before and after meal service with the staff waiting for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners.
A first aid kit was present and observed to have a good supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs.
The center makes use of sleeping mats during nap time and families provide two blankets for the children with one used for a mat cover, and the other for the children to cover themselves.

Playground:
The center does have a playground with a climbing structure and other activity centers. All equipment was observed to be in good repair.
Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing.
An awning is present to provide a shaded play area.
The playground is enclosed by chain link fencing which was in good repair.

Nutrition:
The center has full kitchen facilities and meals and snacks are prepared on site.
Menus were present and identified a good variety of nutritious food options.
Good food storage practices were observed with all food items placed in air tight sealable food grade containers.
Thermometers were present in refrigeration and freezer units to ensure proper cold holding temperatures are maintained.
Meals are served family style. The teachers did sit and eat with the children to model and encourage good eating habits.

Administration:
All required notices for No Smoking, License Certificate, Consultant Contact, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were present and in an area readily accessible to all parents and visitors. Required postings for emergency evacuation, emergency contact numbers, diapering, handwashing, curriculum, and daily schedule were also posted as required.
Child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information.
Staff files are reviewed during an annual review at the program main office and any concerns are addressed at that time.
All required inspection logs and certificates were current and available.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None Cited

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

NA

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 09/24/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.